

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

APPROXIMATELY \$42,800.00 IN U.S.  
CURRENCY,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cv-00727-DAD-EPG

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT  
PLAINTIFF'S *EX PARTE* APPLICATION FOR  
DEFAULT JUDGMENT AND FINAL  
JUDGMENT OF FORFEITURE BE GRANTED

## OBJECTIONS DUE WITHIN 14 DAYS

(ECF Nos. 46, 49)

Plaintiff, the United States of America, filed this *in rem* civil forfeiture action against approximately \$42,800.00 in U.S. currency pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6), on grounds that the currency is a thing of value furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical, or proceeds traceable to such an exchange, or was used or intended to be used to facilitate one or more violations of 21 U.S.C. § 841, *et seq.* (ECF No. 1).

On July 18, 2012, Plaintiff filed a motion for an *ex parte* default judgment against four individuals with potential interests in the currency—Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and Choua Vang—and moves for a final judgment of forfeiture against them and a

1 claimant who has been dismissed in this case—Meekeo Sengsavang—to vest in the United States  
 2 all right, title, and interest in the currency. (ECF Nos. 46, 49); *see* LR 540(b)(6) (providing that  
 3 for motions for default judgment, “[i]f no one has appeared, the party may have an ex parte  
 4 hearing before the Court and judgment without further notice”). There has been no response to  
 5 the motion or the underlying complaint by Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith  
 6 Sable, and Choua Vang. For the following reasons, the Court recommends that the motion be  
 7 granted.

8 **I. BACKGROUND**

9 **A. Factual Allegations**

10 The following factual recitation comes from Plaintiff’s uncontested verified complaint for  
 11 forfeiture *in rem*. (ECF No. 1).

12 On November 17, 2019, the Fresno Police Department (FPD) responded to a house to  
 13 investigate a reported homicide, locating ten victims with gunshot wounds, four of whom died.  
 14 FBD and the FBI began an investigation into the shooting and its connection to local criminal  
 15 gangs—the Asian Crips and the Mongolian Boys Society—and disputes over interstate drug  
 16 trafficking territory. On December 26, 2019, law enforcement executed eighteen search warrants  
 17 on various locations associated with local criminal gangs and residences of individuals with  
 18 connections to the shooting.

19 Pertinent here, a search warrant was executed at 1442 N. 8th Street, Fresno, California—  
 20 an address connected to Kong Vang, an admitted broker of illegal marijuana. Kong Vang has a  
 21 criminal history including multiple felony arrests, many drug-related, and misdemeanor  
 22 convictions for burglary and domestic violence.

23 Law enforcement encountered five individuals at this address; Kong Vang and his  
 24 girlfriend Meekeo Sengsavang, who confirmed that they occupied the northeast bedroom at the  
 25 residence; an individual,<sup>1</sup> William Sable, who confirmed that he occupied a garage that had been  
 converted into a bedroom; and two more individuals,<sup>2</sup> Moua Vang and Chou Vang, who

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26 <sup>1</sup> This individual is not identified in the verified complaint, but counsel later submitted a supplement  
 27 identifying this person as William Sable, citing a declaration provided by Task Force Officer Dean A.  
 Cardinale. (ECF No. 49, p. 2, citing ECF No. 40-4, pp. 2-3).

28 <sup>2</sup> These individuals are not identified in the verified complaint, but counsel later submitted a supplement

1 confirmed that they occupied the southwest bedroom.

2 In the northeast bedroom, a FPD detective found a brown purse containing approximately  
3 \$42,800 in cash, marijuana, a Minnesota driver's license for Sengsavang, a social security card  
4 for Sengsavang, and a gold iPhone. The \$42,800 in cash—composed of all \$100 denominations—  
5 was bundled in five separate stacks and rubber-banded. Also in the northeast bedroom, law  
6 enforcement found a receipt book and notepad representing “pay/owe” sheets for completed drug  
7 sales.

8 When interviewed about the \$42,800, Kong Vang told law enforcement that his sole  
9 employment is as an interstate marijuana broker with clients all over the United States. Further,  
10 he planned to show Sengsavang where to purchase marijuana clones and acknowledged that a  
11 portion of the currency was involved in illegal drugs sales, *i.e.*, being designated for the purchase  
12 of marijuana clones. Kong Vang stated that a smaller portion of the currency was for Sengsavang  
13 to buy a car.

14 When interviewed, Sengsavang stated that she lives in Minnesota and had been instructed  
15 by Kong Vang to fly to Sacramento with \$9,000. She had arrived in California a few days before  
16 the search and Kong Vang picked her up at the airport and drove her to the residence. She said  
17 that she was unemployed and that the currency was largely for the purchase of marijuana clones.

18 As a result of the search of the seventeen other locations, law enforcement arrested six  
19 suspects, seized two firearms believed to be connected to the homicide investigation (along with  
20 twelve additional weapons), and seized a total of \$46,000 in currency believed to be related to  
drug activity. The arrests have led to state and federal murder charges.

21 **B. Procedural History**

22 On May 22, 2020, Plaintiff filed this *in rem* civil forfeiture action against the subject  
23 currency pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) as “a thing of value furnished or intended to be  
24 furnished in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical, and proceeds traceable to  
25 such an exchange, and [that] was used or intended to be used to facilitate one or more violations  
26 of 21 U.S.C. § 841, *et seq.*” (ECF No. 1, p. 1).

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 identifying these persons as Choua Vang and Moua Vang, citing a declaration provided by Task Force  
Officer Dean A. Cardinale. (ECF No. 49, p. 2, citing ECF No. 40-4, pp. 2-3).

1 Beginning on June 2, 2020, Plaintiff posted notice of the forfeiture on an official  
 2 government internet site ([www.forfeiture.gov](http://www.forfeiture.gov)) for at least thirty consecutive days. (ECF No. 8).  
 3 On June 4, 2020, the Clerk issued an arrest warrant *in rem* for the currency. (ECF No. 5). The  
 4 warrant was executed by the U.S. Marshals Service on June 8, 2020. (ECF No. 7).

5 On June 5, 2020, Plaintiff mailed copies of the complaint, order regarding clerk's  
 6 issuance of warrant for arrest, warrant for arrest, affidavit of Dean Cardinale, order setting  
 7 mandatory scheduling conference, standing order, and court notices to Kong Peng Vang at 1442  
 8 North Eighth Street, Fresno, California, 93703, by first class and certified mail. (ECF No. 16-1, p.  
 9 2; ECF No. 46, p. 4). The PS Form 3811 "green card"<sup>3</sup> was signed by "SB" and returned to the  
 10 United States Attorney's Office. (ECF No. 16-1, pp. 2, 5-9). On June 8, 2020, the U.S. Marshals  
 11 Service personally served the documents listed above on Choua Vang, Kong Peng Vang's niece,  
 12 residing in Kong Vang's usual place of abode at 1442 North Eighth Street, Fresno, California,  
 13 93703. (*Id.* at 2, 11; ECF No. 6).

14 On June 5, 2020, the United States separately mailed the same documents above to Moua  
 15 Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and Choua Vang at 1442 North Eighth Street, Fresno,  
 16 California, 93703, by first class and certified mail. (ECF No. 16-1, pp. 2-3; ECF No. 46, pp. 4-5).  
 17 For each, the PS Form 3811 "green card" was signed by "SB" and returned to the United States  
 18 Attorney's Office. (ECF No. 16-2, pp. 2-3, 12-29).

19 To date, Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, Willaim Smith Sable, and Choua Vang have  
 20 not filed an answer or claim in response to the *in rem* civil forfeiture action.

21 Having received no answer or response to the *in rem* civil forfeiture action, Plaintiff filed  
 22 a request for clerk's entry of default as to Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith  
 23 Sable, and Choua Vang on April 8, 2021. (ECF No. 16). The Clerk of Court issued an entry of  
 24 default as to each the same day. (ECF Nos. 17-20).

25 On April 19, 2021, Meekeo Vue Sengsavang filed an answer through counsel. (ECF No.  
 26 21). However, counsel later withdrew from the case, and Sengsavang failed to thereafter  
 27 participate in the case, resulting in the District Judge granting Plaintiff's motion to dismiss

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28 <sup>3</sup> A "green card" is return receipt card returned to the sender of a piece of mail to provide proof of the  
 29 delivery, including the recipient's signature. *See Return Receipt – The Basics*,  
<https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Return-Receipt-The-Basics> (last visited Aug. 23, 2022).

1 Sengsavang's claim on June 22, 2022. (ECF Nos. 27, 33, 37, 39, 40, 44).

2 Plaintiff filed its motion for a default judgment and final judgment of forfeiture on July  
3 18, 2022. (ECF No. 46). No opposition or response to the motion has been filed. The Court held a  
4 hearing on the motion on July 29, 2022, where only Plaintiff's counsel appeared. (ECF No. 48).  
5 On August 10, 2022, Plaintiff filed a supplement at the Court's request addressing the connection  
6 between the address and currency at issue in the complaint and Moua Lee Vang, William Smith  
7 Sable, and Choua Vang. (ECF No. 49).

8 **II. LEGAL STANDARDS**

9 **A. Civil Forfeiture**

10 Plaintiff brings this action under 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) which provides for the forfeiture of  
11 “[a]ll moneys . . . or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in  
12 exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical in violation of th[e] subchapter.” And 18  
13 U.S.C. § 981(b)(2)(A) permits a seizure if “a complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the United  
14 States district court and the court has issued an arrest warrant in rem pursuant to the Supplemental  
15 Rules of Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims.”

16 “Forfeiture is a harsh and oppressive procedure which is not favored by the courts.”

17 *United States v. \$191,910.00 in U.S. Currency*, 16 F.3d 1051, 1069 (9th Cir. 1994) (superseded  
18 by statute on other grounds) (internal citation omitted). Courts are “particularly wary of civil  
19 forfeiture statutes, for they impose ‘quasi-criminal’ penalties without affording property owners  
20 all the procedural protections afforded criminal defendants.” *Id.* at 1068. “[F]orfeitures should be  
21 enforced only when within both letter and spirit of the law,” *United States v. Marolf*, 173 F.3d  
22 1213, 1217 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citation omitted), and “forfeiture statutes are strictly  
23 construed against the government.” *\$191,910.00 in U.S. Currency*, 16 F.3d at 1068.

24 Procedurally, an *in rem* civil forfeiture must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil  
25 Procedure Supplemental Rules for Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions  
26 (sometimes referred to herein as “Supplemental Rule(s)”). On December 1, 2006, Supplemental  
27 Rule G became effective to govern civil forfeiture actions *in rem*. *See U.S. v. \$50,040 in U.S.*  
*Currency*, 2007 WL 1176631 at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 20, 2007).

28 Pursuant to the Supplemental Rules, the United States initiates forfeiture proceedings by

1 filing a complaint. Supp. R. G(2). *See United States v. Real Property located in Fresno County*,  
 2 135 F.3d 1312, 1315 (9th Cir. 1998) (describing procedural process in forfeiture proceedings).  
 3 The complaint must be verified, state the grounds for subject-matter jurisdiction, describe the  
 4 property at issue with reasonable particularity, identify the tangible property's location when  
 5 seized, identify the statute under which forfeiture is sought, and state sufficiently detailed facts to  
 6 support a reasonable belief that the United States will be able to meet its burden of proof at trial.  
 7 Supp. R. G(2). If the property is located in the United States, the Plaintiff must publish notice of  
 8 the forfeiture action in either a newspaper of general circulation in the district, Supp. R.  
 9 G(4)(a)(iv)(A)) or by posting a notice on the government forfeiture website for at least thirty  
 10 consecutive days. Supp. R. G(4)(a)(iv)(C). This notice must include the time for filing a claim.  
 11 Supp. R. G(4)(b)(ii)(B).

12       Additionally, the Government must send notice to potential claimants “by means  
 13 reasonably calculated to reach the potential claimant[s].” Supp. R. G(4)(b)(iii)(A). And the notice  
 14 must state “(A) the date when the notice is sent; (B) a deadline for filing a claim, at least 35 days  
 15 after the notice is sent; (C) that an answer or motion under Rule 12 must be filed no later than 21  
 16 days after filing the claim; and (D) the name of the government attorney to be served with the  
 17 claim and the answer.” Supp. R. G(4)(b)(ii)(A)-(D).

18       However, although the notice must be sent by a means that is reasonably calculated to  
 19 reach the defendant, there is no requirement under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the  
 20 United States Constitution that a potential claimant actually receive notice of the forfeiture action.  
 21 *See Real Property located in Fresno County*, 135 F.3d at 1316 (holding that a potential claimant  
 22 in a civil forfeiture proceeding need not receive actual notice).

23       Finally, in addition to satisfying the Supplemental Rules discussed, to obtain a default  
 24 judgment in a civil forfeiture proceeding, the plaintiff must comply with Eastern District of  
 25 California Local Rule 540, which provides as follows:

26       (a) Notice Required. A party seeking a default judgment in an action in rem shall  
 27 show to the satisfaction of the Court that due notice of the action and arrest of  
 28 the property has been given:  
       (1) By publication, see L.R. 530;  
       (2) By personal service on the person having custody of the property;  
       (3) If the property is in the hands of a law enforcement officer, by personal  
           service on the person having custody prior to its possession by law

1 enforcement agency or officer; and

2 (4) By personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to  
3 every other person who has not appeared in the action and is known to  
4 have an interest in the property; provided however, that failure to give  
5 actual notice to such other person may be excused upon a satisfactory  
6 showing of diligent efforts to give such notice without success.

7 **B. Default Judgment**

8 “The Supplemental Rules themselves do not provide a procedure to seek default judgment  
9 in an action *in rem*. However, Supplemental Rule A provides: ‘The Federal Rules of Civil  
10 Procedure also apply to the foregoing proceedings except to the extent that they are inconsistent  
11 with these Supplemental Rules.’” *United States v. 2013 Lamborghini Aventador LP700-4*, No.  
12 1:17-CV-00967-LJO-SKO, 2018 WL 3752131, at \*9 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 8, 2018) (quoting Supp. R.  
13 A(2)). Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b)(2) provides as follows:

14 A default judgment may be entered against an infant or incompetent person only if  
15 represented by a legal guardian, committee, conservator, or other like fiduciary  
16 who has appeared. If the party against whom default judgment is sought has  
17 appeared personally or by a representative, that person or its representative must  
18 be served with written notice of the application at least 7 days before the hearing.  
19 The court may conduct hearings or make referrals-preserving any federal statutory  
20 right to a jury trial-when, to enter or effectuate a judgment, it needs to:

21 (A) conduct an account;  
22 (B) determine the amount of damages;  
23 (C) establish the truth of any allegation by evidence; or  
24 (D) investigate any other matter.

25 Upon default, the well-pleaded allegations of the complaint relating to liability are taken  
26 as true. *TeleVideo Systems, Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-918 (9th Cir. 1987).

27 **III. ANALYSIS**

28 **A. Plaintiff has Satisfied the Procedural Requirements for an *In Rem* Civil  
Forfeiture**

29 **1. Sufficiency of the Complaint**

30 Pursuant to the Supplemental Rules, Plaintiff’s complaint is verified (ECF No. 1, p. 6),  
31 states the grounds for subject matter jurisdiction (*id.* at 2), describes the property—the \$42,800 in  
32 currency—with reasonable particularity (*id.* at 3), identifies the location where it was seized (*id.*),  
33 identifies the applicable statutes under which forfeiture is sought (*id.* at 4), and states sufficient  
34 details to support a reasonable belief that the United States would be able to meet its burden of  
35 proof at trial (*id.* at 2-4). *See* Supp. R. G(2). Further, the uncontested facts provide a sufficient  
36

1 nexus between the subject currency and violations related to controlled substances or listed  
2 chemicals to support forfeiture.

3 **2. Notice By Publication**

4 Supplemental Rule G(4) sets forth the rules for publication of the notice of action in  
5 federal forfeiture proceedings. Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(iv)(C) provides that, in lieu of  
6 newspaper publication, the United States may publish a notice by “posting a notice on an official  
7 internet government forfeiture site for at least 30 consecutive days.”

8 Here, publication occurred on the official internet government forfeiture site  
9 ([www.forfeiture.gov](http://www.forfeiture.gov)) for 30 consecutive days beginning on June 2, 2020. (ECF No. 8). A copy of  
10 the notice was attached to the declaration of publication, and it describes the property with  
11 reasonable particularity. (*Id.* at p. 3.) The notice clearly sets forth the time limits for filing a claim  
12 and an answer or motion. (*Id.*) The notice also provides the contact information for an attorney to  
13 be served with any claim, answer, or motion. (*Id.*) Thus, the Supplemental Rule’s notice content  
requirements have been satisfied.

14 **3. Personal Notice**

15 When the Government knows the identity of the property owner, the Due Process Clause  
16 of the Fifth Amendment requires “the Government to make a greater effort to give him notice  
17 than otherwise would be mandated.” *Real Property*, 135 F.3d at 1315. In such cases, the  
18 Government must attempt to provide actual notice by means reasonably calculated under all  
19 circumstances to apprise the owner of the pendency of the forfeiture action. *Dusenberry v. United*  
20 *States*, 534 U.S. 16, 168 (2002); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. Supp. R. G(4)(b). “Reasonable notice,  
21 however, requires only that the [G]overnment attempt to provide actual notice; it does not require  
22 that the [G]overnment demonstrate that it was successful in providing actual notice.” *Mesa*  
23 *Valderrama v. United States*, 417 F.3d 1189, 1197 (11th Cir. 2005); *see also* *Real Property*, 135  
24 F.3d at 1315 (“In view of the Government’s efforts to notify [claimant], we reject [claimant’s]  
25 claim that due process requires that he received actual notice of the forfeiture proceedings.”).

26 Supplemental Rule G(4)(b)(iii)(A) mirrors this requirement, providing for notice to be  
27 “sent by means reasonably calculated to reach the potential claimant.” Additionally, this Court’s  
28 Local Rule 540 addresses notice to persons known to have an interest in property subject to

1 forfeiture.

2 Here, Plaintiff contends that it undertook reasonable measures to ensure that those with a  
 3 potential interest in the subject currency— Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith  
 4 Sable, and Choua Vang —received actual notice of this forfeiture proceeding. As for Kong Peng  
 5 Vang, Plaintiff mailed by first class certified mail copies of the complaint and relevant court  
 6 documents to an address associated with him (1442 North Eighth Street) on June 5, 2020, and  
 7 thereafter the U.S. Marshals Service personally served the documents on his niece at this same  
 8 address. Also on June 5, 2020, the United States mailed by first class certified mail copies of the  
 9 complaint and relevant court documents to an address associated<sup>4</sup> with Moua Lee Vang, William  
 10 Smith Sable, and Choua Vang (1442 North Eighth Street). For each person, a “green card” was  
 11 returned signed by “SB” to the United States Attorney’s Office. Accordingly, the Court finds that  
 12 Plaintiff attempted to provide these persons with actual notice by means reasonably calculated  
 13 under all the circumstances to apprise them of the pendency of this action, thus satisfying the Due  
 14 Process Clause, the Supplemental Rules, and Local Rule 540. *Real Property located in Fresno*  
 15 *County*, 135 F.3d at 1316 (concluding notice by mail or other means as certain to ensure actual  
 notice satisfy due process concerns); (see ECF No. 16-1, pp. 7-29).

16 **4. The Time to File a Claim or Answer**

17 Pursuant to the Supplemental Rules, any person who asserts an interest in or a right in a  
 18 forfeiture action must file a claim with the Court within thirty-five days after the Government’s  
 19 notice is sent or sixty days after the first day of publication on an official internet government  
 20 forfeiture site. *See Supp. R. G(4)(b)(ii)(B) & G(5)(a)(ii)(B)*. Failure to comply with the  
 21 procedural requirements for opposing the forfeiture precludes a person from establishing standing  
 22 as a party to the forfeiture action. *Real Property located in Fresno County*, 135 F.3d at 1317.

23 Here, more than sixty days have passed since the first date of publication, and more than  
 24 thirty-five days have passed since the date that the known potential claimants were provided with  
 25 notice of the Plaintiff’s complaint for civil forfeiture. No claim has been filed (except the  
 26 dismissed claim of Sengsavang), and a clerk’s entry of default has been properly entered against

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27 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiff’s supplement and the declaration it cites explain that Moua Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and  
 28 Choua Vang resided at the address where the currency was found, albeit in different rooms than where the  
 currency was found. (ECF No. 49, p. 2 (citing ECF No. 40-4, pp. 2-3)

1 all known potential claimants. (ECF Nos. 17-20).

2 **5. Conclusion**

3 Plaintiff has met the procedural requirements applicable to civil forfeiture *in rem* actions  
 4 as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 983, the Supplemental Rules, and the Local Rules for the Eastern  
 5 District of California. This favors the entry of default judgment and the issuance of a final  
 6 judgment in forfeiture to vest in Plaintiff all right, title, and interest in the defendant property.

7 **B. The *Eitel* Factors Support Default Judgment**

8 Having determined that Plaintiff complied with the procedural prerequisites for a civil  
 9 forfeiture *in rem*, the Court now turns to whether a default judgment is appropriate. Plaintiff seeks  
 10 judgment against the interests of Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and  
 11 Choua Vang and also requests that the Court enter a Final Judgment of Forfeiture, forfeiting all  
 12 right, title, and interest in the Defendant currency to Plaintiff to be disposed of according to law.

13 When considering whether to enter default judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, courts  
 14 consider the following factors: (1) the possibility of prejudice to the plaintiff; (2) the merits of the  
 15 plaintiff's substantive claim; (3) the sufficiency of the complaint; (4) the sum of money at stake in  
 16 the action; (5) the possibility of a dispute concerning material facts; (6) whether the default was  
 17 due to excusable neglect; and (7) the strong policy of favoring decisions on the merits. *Eitel v.*  
*McCool*, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986); *United States v. Real Prop. Located at 80 Coon*  
*Creek Rd., Coon Creek Rd., Burnt Ranch, Cal.*, No. CIV S07-1405WBSEFB, 2008 WL 4911865,  
 18 at \*6 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 14, 2008) (applying *Eitel* factors in civil forfeiture action).<sup>5</sup>

19 The *Eitel* factors favor a default judgment here. First, Plaintiff would be prejudiced by the  
 20 denial of its motion by spending additional time and effort litigating an action in which no claim  
 21 has been made. Second, Plaintiff's claims appear to have merit. Third, as discussed above,  
 22 Plaintiff has adhered to the procedural requirements of a forfeiture action, including the filing of a  
 23 sufficient complaint. Fourth, the sum of money in dispute here is not substantial enough to  
 24 warrant the denial of Plaintiff's motion. Fifth, there are no genuine disputes as to any material  
 25 fact. Sixth, it does not appear that the failure of any claimant is due to excusable neglect. Finally,

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26  
 27 <sup>5</sup> While the *ex parte* application for default judgment and final judgment of forfeiture did not address these  
 28 factors, counsel for the United States did so at the hearing.

1 although merits-based decisions are always preferred, it is not practical, as here, where no claim  
2 have been filed by Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and Choua Vang,  
3 and the claim filed by Sengsavang has been dismissed. Accordingly, there is no impediment to  
4 the default judgment sought by Plaintiff and the Court will recommend that the motion be  
5 granted.

6 **IV. CONCLUSION**

7 For the reasons set forth herein, IT IS RECOMMENDED that:

8 1. Plaintiff's motion for default judgment against the interests of Kong Peng Vang, Moua  
9 Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and Choua Vang be granted and a default judgment  
10 against Kong Peng Vang, Moua Lee Vang, William Smith Sable, and Choua Vang be  
11 entered. (ECF No. 46, *see* ECF No. 49);  
12 2. Plaintiff's motion for an entry of final judgment of forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C.  
13 § 881(a)(6) be granted;  
14 3. The Court enter a final judgment of forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6),  
15 forfeiting all right, title, and interest in the Defendant currency to the United States;  
16 and  
17 4. The Clerk of Court be instructed to close this case.

18 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the District Judge assigned to the  
19 case, pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Written objections to these  
20 findings and recommendations may be filed within fourteen days of issuance. Any such  
21 objections should be titled "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations."  
22 Failure to file objections within the specified time may result in the waiver of rights on appeal.

23 *Wilkerson v. Wheeler*, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014).

24 IT IS SO ORDERED.

25 Dated: August 23, 2022

26 /s/ *Eric P. Groj*  
27 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
28